

Western Zone Northern Rockies Incident Management Team Rombo Mountain Fire Update

September 2 @ 9 a.m. Bitterroot National Forest Fire Information: (406) 821-1065
www.inciweb.org or www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot

The Western Zone Northern Rockies Incident Management Type II Team assumed management of the Rombo Mountain incident from the Southern Area Incident Command Blue Team on Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Overall, the fire's management will be based on a confine and control strategy. Current acreage on the fire is 24,700, with 15% containment.

Warming and drying trends with predicted southwest winds, coupled with extremely dry fuel conditions, are likely to increase fire activity through Monday. Expect an increase in smoke over the next few days from Rombo and other regional fires.

North: The majority of firefighting resources will concentrate in the north end of the Rombo fire today. Saturday, crews conducted a burn out along newly constructed line in the Piquett Creek area; the burn out will continue today. Smoke will be visible from the West Fork Road at Piquett Creek Road. Crews will work to complete direct and indirect line south of Shook Mountain. Helicopter crews will support suppression with bucket drops to cool the fire.

East and South: Crews will monitor and patrol the line, watching for rolling debris along steep slopes. The team will assess fire activity in the Pass Lake area.

West: Saturday, little significant fire activity occurred on the west side of the fire. Today, crews will monitor and patrol the area, staying alert to changing weather conditions.

Location: 5 miles south of Conner, Montana and 2 miles northeast of Painted Rocks Lake

Date and Time of Fire Start: July 31, 2007 at 1:40 pm

Cause: Lightning

Committed Resources: 266 total personnel including 6 crews, 21 Engines, 2 Dozers, 6 Water Tenders, 2 helicopters, and fire support personnel.

Structures Threatened: 134

Structures Damaged: 0

Structures Destroyed: 0

The following Stage 1 Pre-evacuations remain in effect:

- West Fork Road from Nez Perce Fork to Painted Rocks Reservoir.
- West Fork Road from Lavene Creek to Trapper Creek Job Corps Center.
- West of Highway 93 from the Conner Cutoff to the Sula Store.
- South of the Conner Cutoff to the West Fork Road and south of the West Fork Road to Trapper Creek Job Corps Center.

Fire Restrictions and Closures: Highway 93 and West Fork Road are open. Current fire restrictions and closures remain in effect. Visitors are reminded that southwest Montana is in Stage 2 fire restrictions which include no campfires or smoking outside of a vehicle or building – except in cleared, designated areas. For more information contact the Bitterroot National Forest at www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot.